Archive of Pathyris' temple of Hathor

Place Date Language Material Number texts Type Collections

Pathyris 2nd cent. – 88 B.C. Demotic and Greek Papyri and ostraka Minimum 27

Temple archive

Cairo, Egyptian Museum; Heidelberg, Institut für Papyrologie; London, British Library;

Paris, Louvre Find/Acquisition Partly found of

Partly found during the excavations of 1891 and partly acquired on the antiquities market from 1891 onwards

Bibliography

This description has been printed in K. Vandorpe and S. Waebens, *Reconstructing Pathyris' Archives. A Multicultural Community in Hellenistic Egypt* (Collectanea Hellenistica 3), Brussels 2009, p. 100-101 §35.

The temple archive as such has not been studied. For the Greek texts of the dossier Pathyris-Hermonthis, see P. Lond. VII 2188 introduction.

Description

The major part of the texts were unearthed during the excavations of 1891 and were brought to the Cairo Museum. The other texts turned up on the antiquities market as a result of illicit trade and were sold to different collections shortly afterwards. The texts became mixed up with the Dryton group (see Vandorpe and Waebens, *Reconstructing Pathyris' Archives* (2009), §21(1) and Collection I, F, U, V, Z, AA, FF and suppl. 7).

Many demotic and a few Greek papyri — especially fragmentary ones and some ostraka originate from the temple of Hathor in Pathyris, located in the southern part of the town (Vandorpe and Waebens, Reconstructing Pathyris' Archives (2009), §3), among them: (1) lease contracts, in which the temple leases temple land to private persons (see Vandorpe and Waebens, Reconstructing Pathyris' Archives (2009), §3) (2) temple accounts, (3) lists of priests, (4) requests to the temple, (5) religious texts or hymns, (6) reports of the temple, (7) the file Pathyris-Hermonthis. The latter file deals with a long-standing dispute between the priests of Pathyris and those of Hermonthis in the period 181-148 B.C. and was undoubtedly compiled by Pathyris' priests for the final hearing at Alexandria. The dispute concerns the ownership of a fertile piece of low land alongside the Nile and its extensions created after Nile inundations (see Vandorpe and Waebens, Reconstructing Pathyris' Archives (2009), §3). Several petitions are turned in to Greek officials and lawsuits are conducted. Most of these documents are thus written in Greek.

Archive texts and text types

The survey is exemplary, since many demotic papyrus fragments, which presumably belong to the temple archive, are not yet published, among them demotic accounts and lease contracts from the Cairo Museum (P. Cairo II).

Lease contracts (demotic). — P. Cairo II 30768 + 30771; 30813 descr.; 30985 descr. + 31015 + 31038 Ro + 31056 (Ro and Vo); FuB 8 (1967), p. 83 no. 9; P. Gebelen Heid. 9 = P. Ackerpachtverträge p. 39-40; P. Gebelen Heid. 12; P. Gebelen Heid. 15. On ostrakon: Enchoria 21 (1994), p. 29-30 no. 31 and 32.

Temple accounts (demotic). — P. Cairo II 30717 + 30772; 30801 [= R.A. Parker, *The Calendars of Ancient Egypt*, Chicago 1950, p. 19-21]; 30813 descr.; 30960 Vo (recto: petition); 30985 descr. + 31015 + 31038 Vo + 31056 (Ro and Vo); 30965; 31011; 31014 descr.

Lists of priests (demotic). — *FuB* 8 (1967), p. 85 no. 12.

Requests to the temple (demotic). — P. Cairo II 30960 Ro (verso: account).

Religious texts or hymns (demotic). — P. Cairo II 30962 (hymn to Souchos and Hathor).

Reports of the temple (demotic). — P. Cairo II 30966.

The file Pathyris-Hermonthis (Greek-demotic). — Greek: P. Cairo I 10361 + 10362 (see P. Lond. VII, p. 275); Demotic: P. Cairo II 31020 descr. + 31057¹ descr. (for the Greek line on this bilingual papyrus, see SB I 4471); Greek: P. Grenf. I 40 = Chrest. Mitt. 25 + P. Heid. Gr. 1304 ined.²; Greek: P. Lond. VII 2188; Demotic: P. Louvre Dem. E 10597 ined.

For the temple oaths on ostraka, part of which may have been kept in the temple, see Vandorpe and Waebens, *Reconstructing Pathyris' Archives* (2009), §3 and §13.

¹ I owe the join to U. Kaplony-Heckel. In my view, the text is part of the file Pathyris-Hermonthis: the verso contains one column of a Greek text, dated to *Mecheir* of year 33 (compare P. Lond. VII, p. 275); the second column on the verso and the text on the recto are drawn up in demotic, recording the name of the *strategos* Noumenios (compare P. Lond. VII, p. 274).

² I discovered the fragment during my visit to the Heidelberg Institute. It contains the end of lines 2 and 3, with *inter alia* the name of Antipatros in 1. 2 (the addressee, whose name is also mentioned on the verso) and that of Nechthminis, one of the priests involved in the dispute, in 1. 3.